



PATENT

Atty. Docket No. 1135-21 RE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Vladimir A. Stoy EXAMINER: Not yet assigned
SERIAL NO.: 10/625,390 GROUP: Art Unit 3738
FILED: July 23, 2003 DATED: March 30, 2004
FOR: SPINAL NUCLEUS IMPLANT

Mail Stop: Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

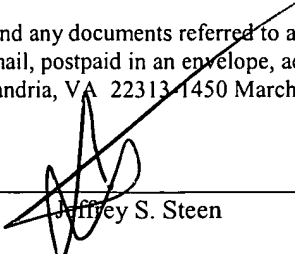
Pursuant to Applicant(s) duty of disclosure, it is respectfully requested that the patents listed in the attached form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the above-identified application. A copy of each reference is attached hereto.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence and any documents referred to as enclosed herewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Mail Stop: Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 March 30, 2004.

Dated: March 30, 2004

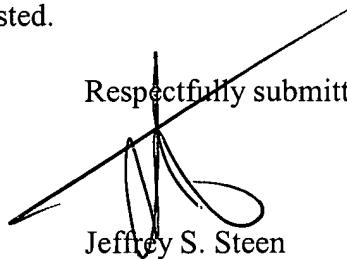


Jeffrey S. Steen

The listed items were all cited in an International Search Report mailed March 19, 2004 by the PCT Branch of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (European Patent Office) in PCT/US03/01434. The '01434 PCT application corresponds to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/853,002 filed May 10, 2001, which discloses subject matter related to the subject application. A copy of the Search Report is enclosed. No representation is made herein as to one accuracy of the categories of cited documents listed in box C of the Search Report. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of the Search Report.

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey S. Steen', is written over a diagonal line that extends from the bottom left towards the top right.

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Form PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO. 1135-21 RE

SERIAL NO. 10/625,390

APPLICANT

Vladimir A. Stoy

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

FILING DATE July 23, 2003

GROUP ART UNIT 3738

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| | 5,674,295 | 10/7/1997 | Ray, et al. | | | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | 0 505 634 A1 | 9/30/1992 | EPO | | | | |
| | WO 00/64385 | 11/2/2000 | PCT | | | | |
| | WO 02/076336 A2 | 10/3/2002 | PCT | | | | |
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OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(Form PTO-1449 [6-41])